

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES, ARTS, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

**REPORT TO THE RIVERSIDE DIVISION
MAY 23, 2017**

To be adopted:

Proposed Changes to Dance Minor

PRESENT:

1. Lower-division preparation (14 units)
 - a) DNCE 014, DNCE 019
 - b) Six (6) units from movement practice courses: DNCE 066A, DNCE 066B, DNCE 067A, DNCE 067B, DNCE 067C, DNCE 069A, DNCE 069B, DNCE 070A, DNCE 070B, DNCE 071A, DNCE 071B, DNCE 073A, DNCE 073B, DNCE 074A, DNCE 074B, DNCE 075A, DNCE 075B, ~~DNCE 081A, DNCE 081B, DNCE 081C~~
2. Upper-division requirements (16 units): 4 courses from DNCE 114A, DNCE 114B, DNCE 114C, DNCE 131/~~WMST~~ 127, DNCE 132, DNCE 133, DNCE 134, DNCE 135, DNCE 155 (E-Z)/MUS 155 (E-Z), DNCE 161/MCS 161, DNCE 162/MCS 162, DNCE 171 (E-Z), DNCE 172 (E-Z), DNCE 173 (E-Z), DNCE 180 (E-Z)

PROPOSED:

1. Lower-division preparation (14 units)
 - a) [no change]
 - b) Six (6) units from movement practice courses: DNCE 066A, DNCE 066B, DNCE 067A, DNCE 067B, DNCE 067C, DNCE 068, DNCE 069A, DNCE 069B, DNCE 070A, DNCE 070B, DNCE 070C, DNCE 071A, DNCE 071B, DNCE 073A, DNCE 073B, DNCE 074A, DNCE 074B, DNCE 075A, DNCE 075B, DNCE 081
2. Upper-division requirements (16 units): 4 courses from DNCE 114A, DNCE 114B, DNCE 114C, DNCE 115E-Z, DNCE 131/GSST 127, DNCE 132, DNCE 133, DNCE 134, DNCE 135, DNCE 136, DNCE 140, DNCE 155 (E-Z)/MUS 155 (E-Z), DNCE 161/MCS 161, DNCE 162/MCS 162, DNCE 171 (E-Z), DNCE 172 (E-Z), DNCE 173 (E-Z), DNCE 180 (E-Z), DNCE 181

Justification:

The changes reflect additions to the Dance undergraduate curriculum.

Dance Undergraduate Curriculum:

The largest change to the B.A. in Dance is the implementation of two emphases: one in Dance Making, the other in Dance Studies. The Dance Department faculty believe strongly that the implementation of these emphases will perform three critical functions: 1) they will create opportunities to fulfill the major other than through the creation of choreography for the annual undergraduate dance concert; 2) they will create a more formal curricular structure for the twin foci that make UCR's Dance Department unique – its dual strengths in choreographic practice and critical dance studies; and 3) they will permit dance majors to specialize in one or the other of these areas, even as they take courses across both.

Previously, Dance majors were required to create work for UCR Is Dancing, the annual undergraduate showcase of student choreography, which takes place in the University Theatre. Although this option is appealing to many of our undergraduates, the Department is cognizant of the fact that not all

students with a serious interest in dance want to create dances for the concert stage. The proposed curricular changes create a multiplicity of ways of fulfilling the major, including the completion of a Dance Studies research paper, or the completion of an individualized creative research project other than the creation of choreography for the concert stage.

Rather than pursuing a “tracks” model that would create divisions between art-making and critical studies, the emphasis model will ensure that students continue to gain skills in both areas and that they continue to gain exposure to dance as both a creative and scholarly endeavor. In their last year of the B.A, after completing a number of shared required courses, Dance majors will choose an emphasis in either Dance Making or Dance Studies and complete a Capstone Research Seminar.

Those pursuing the Dance Making emphasis will take DNCE 188, a 2-unit lead-in class to the capstone research seminar in Dance Making (DNCE 189E). This additional two-unit course is the only imbalance between the two emphases. It arises out of the fact that creative research projects, especially those that involve the weeks-long process of training and directing other dancers, cannot be completed in ten weeks. Dance Making students will begin to develop their research projects in the quarter preceding their public presentation.

Those pursuing the Dance Studies emphasis will enroll in DNCE 189F, in which they will develop and complete a thesis-style written project under the guidance of a faculty instructor. The Dance faculty have noted that each year, several undergraduates have their interests sparked in our Dance Studies curriculum, but the previous major requirements provided no avenue for them to pursue deeper study in this area. The Dance Studies emphasis will better support those students drawn to dance as a scholarly endeavor and may also result in more of our majors pursuing graduate work in Dance Studies. (In the past three years, two of our B.A. students have entered our PhD in Critical Dance Studies, a trend we hope to cultivate further.)

Another critical change is the replacement of the linear DNCE 114 Composition series with the DNCE 115E-Z umbrella set of courses. This change allows us to move away from the generic term “composition” as an unmarked but typically Eurocentric way of approaching dance making. The newly proposed 115E-Z courses allow us to approach dance making from a wide range of perspectives and to specify those approaches in the sub-title of the course and allows students to choose to pursue the approaches that most appeal to them. The Dance faculty believe the shift away from the unmarked “Composition” and toward “Dance Making Practices” with specifically designated foci will help attract more students into our Department and our major.

A general note on the changes in the terminology of our course titles: The replacement of “Choreographies” with “Dance Making” is a way of opening up what creative activity in dance can look like, moving away from the more limited meanings of “choreography.” Meanwhile, the replacement of “Histories/Cultures” with “Dance Studies” gives a more specific name to the discipline of Dance Studies, which the UCR Department of Dance has helped pioneer through our PhD in Critical Dance Studies.

Crucially, the proposed changes will still enable Dance majors to complete their requirements in two years, which is essential for our transfer students and for those of our students who wish to pursue double majors. This also means that these changes do not increase the number of upper division units. Previously, the Dance major required 42 upper division units. With the proposed changes, the Dance Making Emphasis will require 42 upper division units and the Dance Studies emphasis will require 40 upper division units.

Approvals:

Approved by the faculty of the Department of Dance:

November 2, 2016

Approved by the Executive Committee of the College of Arts,
Humanities, and Social Sciences:

December 14, 2016

Approved by the Committee on Educational Policy:

April 17, 2017